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INSIDE

BANDSHELL SUMMER CONCERTS

Town council backed up the Thursday Night Concert series with praise, action and a request at its Monday meeting.

Council has agreed to a request from the Fonthill bandshell summer concert committee to waive facility fees and cover related expenses and insurance to a limit of \$2,900.

See story, page 12

SAFETY: Project more than three years in the making

New lights slow speeders outside St. Ann school



MARYANNE FIRTH
PelhamNEWS Staff

Bright lights are now flashing at drivers down Canboro Rd. in hopes of slowing school-zone speeders.

Two sets of lights were officially switched on last week in front of St. Ann Catholic School to help keep school-aged youngsters safe on their way to class.

Ward 1 Coun. Debbie Urbanowicz said the road's speed problem was brought to her attention by Carolyn Boratti, a teacher at the Fenwick school who was concerned about the accelerated rate drivers were moving through the area.

Discussions on placing warning lights in front of the school began in 2006, Urbanowicz said, but funding for the project wasn't made available until the 2006 capital budget.

The lights will flash in the morning from 8 to 9 and in the afternoon from 3 to 4 as students make their way to and from St. Ann.

When lights are flashing, with a set on each side of the school-crossing area, the speed limit will be reduced from 50 km/h to 40 km/h.

see CROSSING | A2

MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo
St. Ann Catholic School student Kristen Goossen checks out the new flashing lights on Canboro Rd. in front her Fenwick school. The lights, an initiative town council had been working on for more than three years, are meant to slow down drivers during school hours.

See Inside:
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■ **OFFICIAL PLAN:** Pelham unveils latest details

A road map to Pelham's future

DAVID JANZEN
For The PelhamNEWS

It's a road map to Pelham's future, and last week it was unfolded for residents who stopped by the Fonthill fire hall.

Encountering some bumps along the way due to policy changes that include 2006 greenbelt legislation, Pelham's official plan has been in the works for about four years.

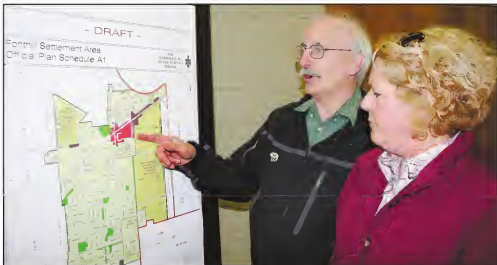
Project manager Chris Jones said two steps remain for its final approval: a public consultation meeting must be held and Niagara Region must green-light it before it comes into effect.

David Stremmler, a retired engineer and 40-year Pelham resident, was curious if the town was planning changes to his area. It's not.

He said it's a "good thing the greenbelt is restricting development."

Still, land east of Fonthill is ripe for potential development. It could potentially have room for 2,500 new homes and a 60- to 100-room seniors residence.

"With any changes, we always ask how it fits in the strategic plan, making sure it's realistic and affordable," said Ward 3 Coun. Peter Papp.



DAVID JANZEN Staff Photo
Pelham Downtown Beautification Committee chair Gary Accursi discusses aspects coming to Fonthill's downtown with Bea Clark, chair of the Pelham Active Transport Committee.

Pelham Downtown Beautification Committee chair Gary Accursi discusses aspects coming to Fonthill's downtown with Bea Clark, chair of the Pelham Active Transport Committee.

"The question to ask yourself is, what do you want to see in five or 10 years when you look down the hill?"

Bea Clark, chair of the Pelham Active Transport Committee, said she reviewed the plan's many maps, charts and diagrams from the perspective of a pedestrian.

"We're glad to see the expansion of the Steve Bauer

Trail," she said.

Planning director Craig Larmour, who's been with the town for eight years, said, "This is one of the best turn-outs we've had at an open house."

Part of the changes to high-density urban areas are the additions of transition zones, which will provide a buffer between downtown and resi-

dential areas. Within a transition zone, the plan approves such things as housing, offices, clinics, personal service shops and small-scale restaurants.

The plan incorporates "the most up-to-date environmental information we can provide. We really should be saying 'thank you' to the farmers for being such good

environmental stewards," said Jones.

Hard copies of the official plan are available from the town for \$25 or can be downloaded for free at www.pelham.ca.

David Janzen is a Niagara College print journalism intern at The Tribune and PelhamNEWS.

■ **CROSSING**

'United front' made signal a reality

FROM PAGE A1

Catherine King, chair of the Pelham Community Policing Committee, said the lights are meant to make drivers "observers of their speed" that flashing lights are more likely to draw the attention of drivers than just bright yellow school crossing signs.

King said the warning light initiative was made possible through a "united front" between the Town of Pelham, Niagara Region and St. Ann school.

Drivers are cautioned that the school zone will be monitored by community policing as part of the speed watch program, she added.

St. Ann school principal Jerry Scaringi said he was happy to see the lights finally being put into place.

"People definitely do speed there. It's an added bonus to now have the lights. It's an asset for the kids."

Mayor Dave Augustyn said council's next step to making Pelham school zones safer will come with the reconstruction of Haist St. this summer.



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■ **YOUTH:** Forum discusses weaknesses in the town

Pelham youth want their voice heard

MARYANNE FIRTH
PelhamNEWS STAFF

The youth of Pelham want their voices heard.

About 90 students gathered last week at the Royal Canadian Legion's Fonthill branch to share their hopes and concerns about Pelham's present and future.

Hosted by the mayor's youth advisory council, this was the third forum held in the town, the last was in 2007, to gain information from local youth.

"We want to know what we can do to make the town more youth-friendly," said Mayor Dave Augustyn.

Students from E.L. Crossley and Notre Dame high schools and Pelham elementary schools participated.

Youth worked in groups to answer a number of questions about their community, what they like about it, and what they hope to see change in the future. Each group made a list of response, sharing and discussing the pros and cons on different aspects of the town.

Laura Gemmel said she enjoys the unique businesses that have made a home in Pelham and her group-mate Jonathon Brown could suggest the town could use a music store.

Broughton went on to say Pelham youth are in need of more activities, and more advertising needs to be done

It's good that they want to hear what kids have to say. This is our community too."

Heide McMahon
Grade 12 student, E.L. Crossley

to promote existing activities of which people are unaware.

In response, Gemmel suggested teen skating events could be held at Pelham Arena.

Crossley Grade 12 student Heide McMahon said her friends encouraged her to participate in this year's forum.

"They know I like to be involved, and have strong opinions," McMahon said, adding she hopes to make a home for herself in Pelham when she's older, and wants the town to be a place she can happily and safely raise children.

While the town is already moving forward with initiatives to make roads safer for pedestrians by improving sidewalks and road crossings, McMahon said she'd like to see those efforts continue further throughout Pelham in the future. An avid runner, she said the roadways can feel dangerous at times.

"It's good that they want to hear what kids have to say. This is our community, too," she said.

She encouraged other



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo
Students Brienne Morgan, Laura Gemmel and Kevin Snelgrove discuss their thoughts on Pelham with Mayor Dave Augustyn. About 90 students gathered at Royal Canadian Legion's Fonthill branch Wednesday for a youth forum meant to give town council insight into the wants and needs of local youth.

youth to share their ideas to help create positive change.

Grade 7 St. Alexander student Kyle Druzina was invited as the forum's guest speaker, sharing his experience of involvement in the community.

Last year, Druzina began a penny drive in support of Wells of Hope at his school, and raised close to \$5,000 for the cause.

"I'm here to tell you we can all make a difference in the world," Druzina said. "Even as kids, we can do this."

■ NEW SIGNAL



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo
A new set of flashing lights meant to slow drivers down during school hours were turned on for the first time Friday in front of St. Ann Catholic School on Canboro Rd. Pictured from left are Niagara Region signal technicians Dave Albano and Dave Durley, Pelham Community Policing Committee chair Catherine King, student Kristen Goossen, Ward 1 Coun. Debbie Urbanowicz, teacher Carolyn Botari and Mayor Dave Augustyn.

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advertising: trfbconp@wellandtribune.ca

Ken Koyama

PELHAM NEWS MANAGER
Wayne Campbell, editor

■ perspective



Wayne Campbell
EDITOR

Festival adds colour to rink

Today we will see the latest edition of a 24-year-old tradition at the Pelham Arena.

The Pelham Art Festival fills the cement with a wide range of paintings, carvings, sculpture and etchings spread through the arena. More than 65 artists, selected through a juried process, will show you what they have done as well as what they can do.

Some demonstrate during the show by setting up their gear to paint, sketch, carve or dabble while they chat with browsers and potential buyers.

The show opens today at 7 p.m. continuing to 10 p.m. with a gala of food, drink and music.

It continues Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.

The art festival has become a local Mother's Day weekend tradition with art pieces from it finding their way into Pelham, Welland, St. Catharines and other Niagara region homes.

It has become a strong draw for people from outside the region. They like to take a scenic May drive through the peninsula. Some are fans of artists who come from across Ontario. Others just enjoy the outing.

The festival began as a fundraiser for the Pelham library struggling to raise money for a new home. Over the years, it continued to support the library bringing in more than \$250,000.

Last week, in the appropriately called Festival Room at the Fonthill branch, festival organizers drew \$10,000 into the hands of the library board chair.

It will help a summer children's theatre program and assist with the construction of new Maple Acre library in Fenwick.

Festival organizers have added a high school scholarship and an art festival for children to their fundraising list.

In other words, the \$8 you spend for a weekend pass or \$4 for a daily pass goes a long way to improve reading options as well as your appreciation of art at the best.

comment

It's a Small Potatoes universe

Monday April 19, 2010; Brock University, Sean O'Sullivan Theatre: "That's about the most musical singing along I've ever heard from an audience, Donna Jean."

"It should be, Arny, they're all musicians." While Donna Jean's statement is not perfectly accurate, there's a lot of truth in it.

It's the one and only scheduled performance by Small Potatoes, the six-man musical group of 55- to 60-year-old, once-upon-a-time young rock stars of the Niagara Peninsula put together for this



Arnie Dyker

special occasion.

They're all still playing in their own groups, still well-known and, dare we say it, beloved "Legends of Niagara." All the same, the term Young Rock Star no longer applies the way it does to the skills and film clips being played on the big screen behind the stage, of these guys and their musical

comparisons way back there in the 10 years of the local music scene they are representing, from the documentary movie *The Big Story of Small Potatoes: Niagara's Rock Music History, 1964-74*.

Many in the full-house audience are area musicians, past and present.

The bulk of the audience is made up of fans — fans of the musicians on stage and of the others interviewed for the film, which had its premiere screening in St. Catharines four months earlier.

see MUSIC | A6

Rec facilities update

Since it was expected that the Recreational Facilities Committee will present a report in May or June, I had outlined for you the process followed so far and inform you about next steps.



Dave Augustyn
MAYORAL VIEW

As you may recall, in 2007 town council hired a consultant to solicit significant public input to help determine the long-term needs for significant town facilities — like the arena, fire stations, library branches, town hall, and Old Town Hall.

Presented in April 2008, that report called for (among other things) a joint facility to replace and enlarge Fire Station No. 2 and the Maple Acre Library, a new twin-pad arena in town or in partnership with Welland, and to keep the campus-like feel of Fonthill's development with the continued presence of the Town Hall and the Fonthill library branch.

As a result, in August 2008 council created three special facilities committees — one for Maple Acre library branch, one for Pelham Fire Station No. 2, and one for recreation facilities — to make recommendations on the construction/replacement of town facilities.

Working to plan and develop town facilities, each committee includes town councillors, myself (as an ex-officio member) and appropriate staff.

The Recreational Facilities Committee began meeting in November 2008.

Its broad mandate includes reviewing the future of all town recreational facilities — the town's arena, outdoor pool, sports fields and parks.

The committee assembled all recommendations from the many previous recreational studies and began work to determine the town's short- and long-term recreational needs.

In July 2008 the committee tabled an interim report that contained many recommendations.

see REC COMMITTEE | A5



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■ COLUMN: Niagara regional council

Active transportation around Pelham

The kick-off for the 2010 Pelham Market season highlights opportunities to improve active transportation for members of our community. Displays include maps and brochures highlighting the walking and cycling experiences available in Pelham and Niagara.

Members of the Pelham Active Transportation Committee (PATC) were on hand to talk about their group's activities over the past year and the development of their Top 10 recommendations for town council to improve walking and cycling opportunities in our community. Also available will be information on the planned CanBike summer programs.

Maps and materials from the Regional Niagara Bicycle Committee (RNBC) were available and the Niagara Free-wheelers hosted a daytime promoting cycling and the activities of their club in the promotion of cycling.



Brian Baty
REGIONAL COUNCILVIEW

Bruce Trail hikes will be recommended as well as participation in the annual Mayor's Walk with a 7.3 kilometre and 2.9 kilometre walk possible.

By coincidence, the "Big Bike" fundraising event went on for the Heart & Stroke campaign with teams of 30 riders heading out from My Place Bar & Grill in the Fonthill plaza. As well, there will be a demonstration of urban painting, a new feature available to avid walkers who use poles similar to cross-country ski poles to increase the health value of their walking workout.

In preparation for this event and a delayed celebration of World Health Day, we asked some

Pelham residents to comment on their favourite walks, hikes or cycling trails in Niagara. Bea Clark is the chair of the Pelham Active Transportation Committee. Bea's favourite and regular walk in town is along Heist St. up to Pancake Lane then down Shoals Dr. to back up with the Steve Bauer Trail by Biglow Crescent and then back to Welland Ave.

John Swart writes regular columns on running and cycling news. He cites a very scenic seven-kilometre cycling stretch going along Ridge Rd. in Fort Erie from Highway 3 to Bowen Rd. that passes several scenic farms and the site of the Penlins' last stand.

Ev Collins leads hikes from time to time along Bruce Trail & other scenic hikes in Niagara. He recommends a two-and-a-half hour loop called Rail & Dingle that heads out of Fonthill on the old Fonthill spur line.

see TRAILS | A5

Favourite nature paths

FROM PAGE A4

It loops back to Fonthill along McSherry Lane and an open road allowance.

He also notes an access on 21st Ave. (Glen Rd.) in Jordan which connects with the Bruce Trail near Ixley Falls.

My grandson Daniel's favourite is The Big Woods also known as the Short Hills Provincial Park.

Sometimes we access it from the Roland Rd. entrance just east of Eppingham Rd. or in Thorold, off Cataract Rd. and Wiley Rd. near DeCew

Falls. Whether it's hiking the trails or cross-country skiing in winter, it affords some of the most spectacular scenery in Niagara. Swayze Falls near White Meadows Farm is especially attractive during the spring draw or after a heavy rainfall.

Google "RNBC" or "Niagara Bruce Trail" for more information on hiking or cycling Niagara.

Brian Baty is a Niagara Regional Councillor for the Town of Pelham, INBC Chair and PAIC member.

■ REC COMMITTEE

FROM PAGE A4

Council received the report and directed staff to hire an architect to develop a functional analysis and to refine the capital and operating costs based on the recommendation.

You see, the committee was 'at a point where additional information (was) required from outside resources,

namely local planning and architectural services' so that it could finish its work.

This architectural work is to culminate in a report that details the space requirements, capital costs, operating costs, potential site plan, most suitable location, timeframes and energy efficiency opportunities for a modern,

community-centre type of recreational facility for immediate and future requirements for Pelham.

The architects held a couple of workshop sessions for user-groups in October and January, and presented a draft report to the committee in early March. When this analysis was to be completed by now, the

architect continues to work on it. I am told to expect the report in May or June — first to the committee, and then to council. From there, council will have to review the report and decide on next steps. You may contact Mayor Dave at palmjardine@pelham.ca or read past columns at www.pelhammayordave.blogspot.com.

Ask the HEALTH EXPERT

MITCH SIRGENT, Senior Vice President



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Bio-K+ International Inc. is changing how health professionals all over North America see probiotics. Gone are the days when doctors could say probiotics don't work and there is no research to suggest they do. While there have been several studies on several types of probiotic bacteria, very few studies were done on the actual products people buy for themselves and their families. Bio-K+ CL1285, sold in stores across Canada and the US for over a decade, is one of the few products to have been tested in clinical studies to confirm real health benefits. The results of these medical studies are so convincing that several hospitals, including ones in Ontario have started to use Bio-K+.

A special panel of medical experts has been created to educate doctors in other hospitals on how to use Bio-K+ CL1285 for their patients. The other good news is that you don't have to be sick to benefit from Bio-K+.

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Reliving the local music scene from '64 to '74

FROM PAGE A4

The six guys on stage are there to present a musical sweep of that music, representing an exciting time to be a local star in a fast-changing musical world. And maybe a chance to make it big. One of them, the true international rock star about whom the film was based, made it huge. Ultimately, the music took all of the rest of them somewhere — Toronto, Vancouver, New York, Montreal, Toronto.

Some of those kids (and they were kids, 15, 16, 17 years old, and out "on the road" gigging, on the weekends, at minimum) are still making a living at it. Nobody said

"getting rich." Hardly any professional musicians do anything more than barely make a living. It's a tough business.

And most of the rest are still out there, playing local clubs. When you work that hard as a young person at an art, especially when you get some recognition for it, it becomes a big part of who you are.

Arlie was heavily involved in the music scene the movie and concert represent. On the way into the theatre, he can hardly move 10 feet without bumping into someone he knew back then. Everybody is bumping into everybody in the same way. It's old home week at the O'Sullivan Theatre.

The most common comment? "You haven't changed a bit!"

Arlie's reply to a girl who said, "Ten years since the last time I saw you, Arlie. You haven't changed a bit!" was "Then I must've looked like hell 10 years ago."

At intermission, there's a more honest version of the comment, referring to photos of the young stars on the big screen, set against the, shall we say, more experienced versions of the same gentleman shown in the present-day video interviews: "It's hard to imagine those old dudes were so young, once."

The line is delivered with affection. These are hard-core fans who loved these men as child stars, and they love them still, only in a more mature way. The concert itself is a big hit — how could it be anything else? But it is a bit on morit, too. The "boys" on this stage were among the best musicians in a thriving time in a hot local music scene, and they remain, today, damn good at what they do. They've just played and sung an hour-and-a-half concert that represents 10 singular years of local live music history.

It will be interesting to see what comes of the film. Will it remain a local phenomenon, or will it get out to a bigger audience through television, or maybe the North by Northeast music festival later this year, or possibly something like the Toronto Film Festival? Will it lead to a bigger career for director Paul Mill?

The film is charming and warm and funny and a fascinating set of then-and-now studies of time, place and character. Most importantly, as Brendan, one of Arlie's best friends, and fellow member of that time so accurately put it, "It could be Birmingham or Hamburg, or Winycross, Ga. — it could be anywhere."

Universally. That's the thing that might nudge a little movie onto another plane. The Small Potatoes universe of filmmaking shares much in common with the Small Potatoes universe of the musicians featured in this first-time filmmaker's documentary.

First you have to be really good at what you do. Then it's all about promotion, and hoping to catch a big break. It's the break you need. Because the talent is already there.

■ COLUMN

A seller's market



Cathy Berkhout-Bosse
REAL ESTATE
VIEW

Pelham is continuing to enjoy a robust spring market this year. As at the end of April, year-to-date sales of single family residential homes totaled 70 units compared to 50 during the same time period last year. Across the Niagara Region the number of sales reported between January and April increased 33% over 2009 results.

National statistics indicate that while demand for resale housing remains strong there are a rising number of new listings coming on the market resulting in a more balanced national resale housing market. According to statistics recently released by The Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA), a total of 233,402 new listings have come on stream since the beginning of the year, more than in any other first quarter period on record.

Generally speaking, Niagara homebuyers have more

choice heading into the busy spring buying season. During the first four months of 2010 there were 3,880 new listings placed on the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) of the Niagara Association of Realtors. This figure represents a 14% increase over the total of 3,397 new listings during the same time frame in 2009.

However, there is an interesting anomaly presenting itself in local real estate markets. The Town of Pelham is the only area in Niagara that actually experienced a decline in the number of new listings recorded with only 134 properties listed between January-April 2010 compared to 157 in 2009.

The under supply of local resale housing options means that it is still very much a Seller's Market in the Town of Pelham. The limited choice in the marketplace is placing upward pressure on average price levels. The current 12 month average price of \$319,132 represents an all time record high for our area.

Cathy Berkhout-Bosse, F.R.A. is a real estate broker and writer living in Pelham. You may read past columns at <http://blog.berkhoutbosse.com/>

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■ **RECIPE:** Just in time for Mother's Day

A lovely ricotta and honey tart

Here is a really lovely recipe ... and just in time for Mother's Day! It is quick and elegant (especially when you use your food processor!)

I like to use the extra creamy ricotta, and I drain it over night by putting it in a fine mesh sieve over a small bowl to catch the liquid. Cover the top with a clean dish and place something heavy on it, such as a tin of tomatoes. This will remove any excess moisture and make for thick, creamy filling.

RICOTTA & HONEY TART ingredients

For the crust:

1/2 cup unsalted butter, melted



Ruth Nixon
FOOD

1/4 cup granulated sugar

1 tablespoon loosely packed, finely grated lemon zest (from about 2 lemons)

1/4 teaspoon fine salt

1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for dusting

For the filling:

1 pound ricotta cheese, drained overnight

2 large eggs

1/2 cup clover honey

1 tablespoon loosely packed, finely grated lemon zest (from about 2 lemons)

1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg

1/3 cup sliced almonds, toasted

Method

For the crust:

Place melted butter, sugar, zest, and salt in a large bowl and stir until combined. Add flour and stir just until a soft dough forms, about 1 minute.

Evenly arrange small pieces of dough over the bottom of a 9-inch round tart pan with a removable bottom. Using a measuring cup or your fingers,

press the dough to form an even layer over the bottom and up the sides of the pan, finishing the cup or your fingers as needed.

Cover the tart shell with plastic wrap and refrigerate for 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, heat the oven to 350°F and arrange a rack in the middle.

When the shell is chilled, prick it all over with a fork and place it on a baking sheet. Bake until golden brown all over, about 20 to 25 minutes. Meanwhile, prepare the filling.

For the filling:

Place drained ricotta, eggs, honey, zest, and cinnamon in the bowl of a food processor fitted with a blade attachment. Process, stopping and scraping the sides of the bowl often with a rubber spatula, until the mixture is smooth and combined, about 1 minute.

Spread the filling in the warm tart shell and evenly sprinkle almonds over top. Bake until the center is just set, about 25 to 30 minutes. Cool completely on a rack before serving.

Ruth Nixon is the owner of the Whisk and Ladle in Ridgville.

pelhambriefs

COUNCIL GOING HOME

Town council is ready to go home.

For the past three months, town council has met at Pelham Fire Station No. 1 on Regional Road 20.

It was tossed out of town hall while an addition was put onto the building.

The addition will include a new council chamber, a committee room and offices for the mayor, chief administrative officer and their assistant. At Monday's town council meeting, Mayor Dave Augustyn thanked the Fonthill Volunteer Firefighters Association for the use of the firehall.

Town council's next meeting on May 17 is expected to be held in the new town hall council chamber.

Restless Leg Syndrome

Restless Leg Syndrome is a nervous system disorder characterized by an urge to move your legs in order to relieve abnormal sensations such as pain, creeping, or burning. In fact, some people say it feels like insects are crawling around inside their legs.

The urge to move your legs usually occurs during periods of rest, and generally tends to be worse in the evenings and at night. Although movement sometimes relieves the symptoms, the sensations often return. Although this condition is known as Restless Leg Syndrome (RLS), these funny sensations can occur in the arms as well.

RLS occurs in both men and women, although the incidence is slightly higher in women. Restless Leg Syndrome becomes more frequent and severe with age.

Sometimes people with RLS also experience a sudden jerking of the arms and legs... known as periodic limb movements. People do have control over this movement, which generally occurs every 20 to 60 seconds and may continue throughout the night.



Up to 30 percent of the population in Canada experience mild to severe symptoms of Restless Legs Syndrome. Symptoms can occur a few times a week in some cases, with many people experiencing symptoms every night.

Clinical research has pinpointed magnesium deficiency as a key factor in the severity and manageability of RLS. An essential element of the nervous and musculoskeletal system, magnesium is receiving more focus as the mineral that not only is critical for bone health, but is also a key element for peaceful sleep, heart health, warding off depression as well as relieving RLS. Surprisingly, magnesium deficiency is quite common nowadays.

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FUNDRAISER: Children collect materials for animal shelter



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Emily Denney's class at Maple Crest Early School gather around and on top of \$742 worth of pet food. They raised the money recently in a "Bark-a-thon," to raise money for the Welland Humane Society. The children collected pledges for about a week and made their promise to act like a dog for a day, including walking on all fours, wearing costumes and collars, going for walks, doing dog tricks and eating dog treats. The students bought 420 cans of food, 20 bags of litter and two treat bags. Pet Food Outlet added items to the purchase for the animal shelter.

COUNCIL: Fixed costs have to be covered

Pelham gets no savings in water conservation

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

When it comes to water, conservation doesn't reduce your water bill.

Filling your rain barrel to water your roses doesn't lower your rates.

Turning off the tap when you brush your teeth isn't trimming cents off your bill.

But if you let those sprinklers on the lawn sprout freely, you will pay more.

Ward 2 Coun. Sharon Cook asked the treasurer during a town council general committee meeting Monday why this is happening.

It's a question, Cook said, she gets a lot.

Treasurer Carl Pupo said the town encourages conservation but suffers in the pocketbook when less water it consumed.

"Most of the items budgeted are fixed costs that do not fluctuate with the level of consumption," she said.

"The town recovers approximately 75% of its user fees through consumption thus increasing the risk of not meeting the fixed cost requirements."

Conservation is one of five factors affecting rates, which are going up 9.21% per cubic metre on a usage charge.

Others factors are: a new way Niagara Region (which supplies the water) charges municipalities for water usage, the town's system of transferring money to reserves for infrastructure needs, a water loss factor of 20% in the system and continuation of deficits in water and wastewater treatment.

Pupo said the town is dealing with these factors.

Through the spring, it is replacing 4,000 aging water meters with high-tech models capable of tracing loss and reporting quickly.

In answer to questions from Cook and Mayor Dave Augustyn, she said she hopes to reduce water loss to under 10%.

see WATER | A9

Most of the items budgeted are fixed costs that do not fluctuate with the level of consumption."

Carl Pupo
Treasurer, Town of Pelham

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■ WATER

Town staff is hoping new meters will reduce water lost to leaks

FROM PAGE A8

"I'm told when you get down to that level, you're looking for a needle in a haystack in trying to find sources of leakage."

In answer to a question about the town staff using water, she said the town pays for what it uses.

That includes flushing the system through fire hydrants and filling pump truck for the fire department. The town has meters to measure use.

Then town charges itself, she said. The cost does not fall back on the ratepayer.

In her report she said, "currently, the town recovers its water consumption with a 22.5% flat rate and a 77.5% volumetric rate."

"The town wants to be proactive in energy conservation efforts and the promotion of these environmental initiatives, she said.

It rewards these practices "by setting the fixed rate at a minimum level and ensuring

users pay more when they consume more"

Town council's general committee passed the proposed water and wastewater rates for 2010.

For those paying for water on a monthly basis, the new base rate is \$10.40, up three cents from the \$10.37 rate of 2009.

For those paying every two months, the new base rate is \$20.80, up from \$20.74 in 2009.

The usage charge for water in 2010 will go to up 10 cents \$1.20 from \$1.0988 in 2009.

Water haulers will see an 11.66% increase in their monthly base charge and a similar usage charge increase

of 9.21%.

For wastewater, that is sewers, there is no increase in the base rate of \$12.45 monthly and \$24.90 for two months.

However, the usage charge on cubic metres of sewage will increase 3.58% to 82 cents a cubic metre.

If you have sewer service

but not water service, the base charge remains the same but usage charge goes up 4.9% to \$164.98.

Pelham has 4,403 accounts hooked up to its water system and 4,081 to its sewer systems.

wcampbell@wellandtribune.ca

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■ **BASEBALL:** PMBA assists high school team

Crossley baseball season opens Monday

For PelhamNEWS

Baseball returns to E.L. Crossley Secondary School this spring with the open-

ing game Monday at Harold Black Park.

The school will enter a team into the District School Board of Niagara High School

Athletic Association league.

Through March, male and female Grade 9 to 12 students have attended tryout sessions and a team was selected.

The coaching staff consists of parents, members of the Pelham Minor Baseball Association and students from Brock University. The

PMBa provides equipment.

The E.L. Crossley team will compete against DSNB Zone 3 schools. They include A.N.Meyer, Ridgeway, St. Michael, St. Paul, Lakeshore Catholic, Notre Dame and Centennial.

Everyone is invited to come out and support the team at their home games at Harold Black Park in Fonthill.

They will take place on Monday, May 10, Wednesday, May 12, and Friday, May 14, at 3:30 p.m.



Zone playoffs will take place at the end of May, with successful teams moving on to regional, OFSAA and SOSSA finals.

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* Minimum purchase of 3 adult buffet.
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■ EDUCATION

Students hope to meet skills challenge

JOSH GRANT-YOUNG
For The PelhamNEWS

WELLAND — Fifty District School Board of Niagara students will take part in the Ontario Technological Skills Challenges competition May 17-18 in Waterloo. The event brings 1,800 students from 30 secondary schools and 20 elementary schools to take part in skilled trades competitions.

Representing E.L. Crossley Secondary School are Gurtje

Multani, in electric wiring; Jaclyn Cook, in photography; Jamie MacDonald, in a job interview challenge; and Sierra Pashback in a job skills demonstration.

Eastdale Secondary School will be represented by Tiffany Rensen in cooking.

Port Colborne High School will be sending Colin Briggs for welding.

Centennial High School will send Jake Lucken and Alex Emmerson for team carpentry.

Representing Empire School are Tristan McLeod, Bradley Thomas, Dakota Turner and Hailey Bishop for Grades 7 and 8 Lego robotics. Glyn A. Green School is sending groups for Grades 7 and 8 2D animation and Grades 7 and 8 Lego mechanics. Daniel Zizan, Boaz Allon, Sara Nguyen and Lindsay Norwood will compete in the animation competition and

Nicholas Guetter, Meghan Pella, Jacob Riehl and Tianna Copher will compete

in Lego mechanics. Students qualified for the provincial competition by winning gold medals at the DSSN Technological Skills Competition in February. By competing at the Ontario level, students may progress to the Canadian Skills Competition in Waterloo May 20-23.

Josh Grant-Young is a Niagara College journalism intern on an internship at The Tribune and PelhamNEWS.

■ TOWN COUNCIL

Town backs Fort Erie on hospital report

PelhamNEWS Staff

Pelham council voted to support a resolution from the Town of Fort Erie asking for a report on the results of various closures at Fort Erie and Port Colborne hospitals.

Ward 3 Counc. John Durley said council should support the request to ensure the stability of the health system in Ontario.

"It is incumbent upon us to ensure services are available and remain available," he told council.

Ward 2 Counc. Sharon Cook said she supported the resolution to encourage development of a new approach to emergency services.

"Right now they're just putting a Band Aid on services," she said. "We need a new delivery system."

Don't "park" your money too long



Larry J. Gallant
FINANCIAL VIEW
ADVERTISEMENT

Over the past two years, many investors have deviated from their original investing strategy and have moved away from investing in the stock markets with a significant number deciding to temporarily "park" their RRSP contributions into short term investments. Stung by recent portfolio decreases, they have been waiting out the economic storm that was arguably the hardest felt recession since the 1929 Great Depression, uncertain if and when they will once again dip their toe into the financial markets.

This strategy can result in a number of problems. First, most short term investments pay interest and in today's rate environment with interest rates at near record lows, these investments are barely keeping pace with inflation.

Second, most investors are poor market timers because they are emotionally attached to their investment decisions. Often, they will wait too long to sell investments in a down market and wind up selling near the market bottom, solidifying their losses. Consequently, the same is true once the markets rebound. Investors tend to wait too long before jumping back in the markets, missing a major percentage as the markets rebound.

Third, there is a real possibility that waiting too long to invest will result in lost opportunities to purchase high quality investments at low market prices. Many stocks have seen their values drop significantly during the recession primarily because investors pulled out of the market in 2008 and 2009. Logic

says that you try to buy low and sell high whenever possible.

So what should you do? Many feel uncomfortable about making these investment decisions because they don't have a financial plan. After all, without a plan how can you determine how much risk you are willing to assume? That's where a dedicated financial advisor can help. With the assistance of a professional financial advisor you can create a long-term strategy to help ensure your money lasts for as long as you need it, now and throughout your retirement.

Make sure your portfolio is well-positioned to take advantage of the market recovery and get back on track to attain your long-term goals.

By creating and maintaining a balanced and diversified portfolio of stocks, bonds and mutual funds your financial advisor can help you steer your portfolio to long-term prosperity. This is most important for your RRSP because the longer you delay, the less potential you have to take advantage of tax-sheltered growth.

For more information on these strategies or to arrange a free, no obligation review of your portfolio, please contact me at larry.gallant@queensbury.com or by calling 905-892-2100. Make sure your portfolio is well-positioned to take advantage of the market recovery and get back on track to attain your long-term goals.

Larry J. Gallant is a Financial Advisor with Queensbury Securities Inc., a member of the Canadian Investment Protection Fund and the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada.



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■ COUNCIL: Launch event next Thursday

Bandshell fees waived

■ DONATION: Money for fetal alcohol syndrome support



Fonthill Kinsmen August Lees presents a cheque to Dianne Labelle of Fetal Alcohol Support Group of Niagara. The money from the Fonthill and District Kinsmen Club will be used for public awareness, prevention and support for families coping with fetal alcohol syndrome.

Supplied Photo

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

Town council backed up the Thursday Night Concert series with praise, action and a request at its Monday meeting.

Responding to a letter from the Fonthill bandshell summer concert committee, council said it would waive facility fees and cover related expenses and insurance to a limit of \$2,900.

It agreed to create a "seniors parking" area, rather than handicapped parking spaces the committee sought.

Chief administrative officer Martin Yamich said traditional handicapped parking would have to be set up permanently. You couldn't do it just for the concerts.

The senior parking areas near the Fonthill bandshell in Pelham Town Square will allow drivers to drop off seniors that could be done on a temporary basis, he said.

It would be unregulated, but he said people would probably respect them.

In response to a request that the town become a \$500 sponsor of one of the concert nights, the council asked that the town be recognized as a full sponsor in light of its \$2,900 commitment in waiving fees and covering insurance.

Council, on a motion by Ward 3 Coun. John Durley, dropped a reference in the staff recommendation that the bandshell committee be registered to service club status with a \$2,000 limit.

Yamich explained the suggestion was made to ease the need for annual requests in the town.

Town staff and the bandshell committee will discuss ways to work closer with the town taking a more active role as a partner, he said.

"They are a great group, but they are getting tired."

Their numbers are dwindling and they need help, he added.

Durley praised the bandshell committee for doing a tremendous job in turning Thursday night concerts into something very beneficial for the town. He is concerned the handful of volunteers running the event may want to move on leaving the event short of workers.

Ward 2 Coun. Sharon Cook and Ward 3 Coun. Peter Papp similarly praised the event.

Cook asked about other accessibility barriers on the Peace Park hill. The CAO said the town was looking for ways to reduce such problems as steps from the shopping plaza.

Papp said the concerts are

an extraordinary series and the town should explore areas of mutual benefit.

Next week the Fonthill Bandshell committee will launch its fifth annual series with a party Thursday, May 13 at Lookout Ridge. The event starts at 2:30 p.m. with the launch announcement set for 3 p.m.

It will feature a sampling of entertainment and a chance for the committee to thank its sponsors.

The Thursday night concerts are run as a non-profit operation, made possible by individual donations at the weekly concerts, and by businesses that purchase sponsorship packages.

This year's series will run from June 17 until Sept. 9. It will include a concert at the bandshell on Canada Day, July 1, which is a Thursday.

While concert sponsorships are sold out for the 2010 season, the committee welcomes volunteers with a few hours to spare on Thursday evenings during the summer.

Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Gayle Baljies-Chastaway at 905-892-5756. For more information on the concert series go to www.fonthillbandshell.com

wcampbell@wellandirhume.ca

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Q. What makes the BPS denture better than any other?

A. The BPS denture, unlike the standard denture that takes three steps further under scientific and controlled conditions. The first step in this system is the **Ivoclar Continuous Injection System**. This is the only system that uses continuous injection of the denture base material to compensate for material shrinkage. The result is a **better fitting denture** base needing far fewer adjustments. Second is the **Stratus 200**. Individual patient data is transferred directly to the **Stratus 200** articulator. This means a precise measurement which enables your Denturist to deliver a superior and better precision fitting denture. Finally a word to use **Ivoclar teeth**. Because of their distinct characteristics **Ivoclar teeth** exhibit a wide range of esthetic effects that resemble those found in natural teeth. **Ivoclar teeth** are made from high quality materials, with true to nature moulds, impressive esthetics and of course, function.

Q. Are there any other benefits from choosing a BPS denture?

A. A BPS denture will help eliminate unsuspected problems that can affect your overall quality of life. Today's patients place an increasing priority on a healthy and attractive smile. Advances in today's technology have the potential to reverse the signs of aging. Inferior dentures were excessively coned to irritate around the mouth and cheeks. Ill-fitting dentures can affect your emotional and psychological health, making it difficult to socialize for fear of speaking and having your dentures click or whistle. Improperly processed dentures can harbour bacteria and cause infection, as well as weaken the denture and lead to bad breath. And of course poor nutrition - a denture that doesn't fit properly can make it difficult to chew food properly. Certain fresh foods such as fruit and vegetables can be harder to chew and denture wearers often eliminate these important food groups from their diet.

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TOWN REJECTS LINK TO WEBSITE BY PRIVATE COMPANY

Pelham town council turned down a request from Tiger Eye Solutions to link the town of Pelham website to MyPelham.com.

A report from staff said,

"through the business directory, the town offers every Pelham based business the opportunity to post their business and contact information. It is possible through the business directory

to have a link to their individual website."

Mayor Dave Augustyn declared a conflict because of a family connection and did not participate in the debate.

PUBLIC MEETING PLANNED TO DISCUSS TOWN'S OFFICIAL PLAN

Following a successful open house on a proposed Official Plan for the town, staff will organize a public meeting on the plan.

Planning director Craig Larmour told town council Monday 42 people attended the

two sessions on April 27. "Questions posed by those in attendance were equally divided between urban and rural issues," he said in his report. "Largely relating to the provincial Greenbelt and Places to Grow documents."

The staff spent time explaining how provincial policies relate to Pelham, he said. Larmour expects to hold a public meeting in June. It will include a formal presentation explaining the process and could run for a couple of hours.

MEMBERS SELECTED FOR PELHAM'S FIRST HERITAGE COMMITTEE

In its general committee meeting Monday, Pelham town council recommended the appointment of the first members of Heritage Pelham Advisory Committee.

Betty Ann DiMartile,

Christine Hayward, Andrea Johnson, Mark Shoalts, Rebecca Uitz and Sean Young will form the first committee. They will serve varying terms of eight months to two years.

Ward 2 Coun. Dave Emmons volunteered to serve as council's representative. The committee advises council on historical, cultural and environmental matters in the town.

NEIGHBOURING HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS GET COUNCIL APPROVAL

Two housing developments in the southeast corner of Pelham were formally approved by town council Monday.

Ugo Lucchetti and Lucchetti Construction Ltd. will put an 11-unit townhouse development at Line Ave. north of Quaker Rd. Ward: 3 Coun. Peter Papp

said a development has been proposed on the site in various forms for 20 years.

Council also formally accepted the draft plan of subdivision for Fonthill Homestead Extension. The site at Homestead Blvd. and Tanner Dr. north of

Quaker Rd. will include 12 single detached dwelling lots and a block of 13 townhouse units.

The two projects are almost adjacent in an area of town with newer homes in a denser arrangement than most of Pelham.

NIAGARA REGION REFORM DEBATE DEFERRED UNTIL MAY 17

PELHAM - A debate on the future organization of Niagara Region was put off Monday until the May 17 meeting of town council.

A proposal by Fort Erie Mayor Doug Martin to reduce the size of regional council was referred

to town staff for a report. The Fort Erie mayor suggests reducing regional council to 19 members from 31. Town clerk Nancy Bazzotto will prepare a report outlining how the proposed changes would affect Pelham.

Ward 2 Sharon Cook said the Fort Erie mayor is on the right track, Niagara has too many politicians.

Mayor Dave Augustyn said he expected a spirited debate on May 17.

SPORTS: Boys U13 take provincial basketball crown

Panthers snag gold

For PelhamNEWS

April 23-25th, 2010 - Mississauga

Game 1 vs Riverside Falcons (Windsor area) The Panthers held their own during this first game of the weekend, but were defeated in the final moments of the game.

Final score: 64-52 Saturday, Game 2 vs Caledon Cougars

Needing a strong victory, the Panthers came out in full force and executed the game plan perfectly.

Final score: 55 - 43

Saturday, Game 3 vs Niagara Falls Red Raiders

After crunching numbers, a win by 20 points would practically secure the wildcard spot and allow us to move on to Championship Sunday. The Red Raiders became very physical in the second half of this game, and took out one of our key players with an injury. The team, more motivated than ever, took matters into their own hands and got the point spread we were looking for.

Final score: 52 - 22

Sunday Game 4, Semi-Finals vs Durham Bulldogs

Having beaten the Bulldogs twice, only two weeks ago at the Blessed Sacrament Tournament, the Durham team was determined to beat us; but their efforts came to no avail as



Supplied photo

Pelham Panthers U13 Bantam Boys win gold at provincial tournament in Mississauga. Front row from left Bryce Julien, Lucas Steingart, Jake D'Addato, Blake Smith, and Jordan Labonte. Back from left: Asst. Coach MaryAnn Lewis, Lee Croft, Daniel Lewis, Austin Armstrong, Mike Brettell, Jake Croft, Coach Eric Labonte.

the Panthers secured their spot at the championship game after executing a great defense that frustrated the Bulldogs. The Durham team went on to win the Bronze medal.

Final scores: 50 - 32

Sunday Game 5, FINALS vs Riverside Falcons

The Panthers were looking to avenge their defeat from Friday night and were eager to play the Falcons again. The point differential never got into double digits, and the Panthers only relinquished the lead once in the

third quarter. In the final two minutes of the game, leading by seven points, the Panthers demonstrated a great deal of poise and composure.

After a few timeouts from both teams, I will remember a comment from one of the players, "Can we just get this over with?"

I told them that if they could control their emotions and not create any turnovers, they would be leaving the gym with gold around their neck... and we did!

Final scores: 45 - 40

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■ **BASKETBALL:** Undefeated march to gold

Pelham Panthers take provincial championship

For Pelham NEWS

The Pelham Panthers Major Bantam (White) girls basketball team finished off its season April 16-18 the same way it finished off its last two tournaments by going undefeated and winning the Gold medal in their division.

The Panther girls won the Division 5 Provincial championship at the Ontario Basketball Associations final tournament held in Mississauga.

The girls started out the tournament defeating the Huntsville Hurricanes in the Friday night game by a score of 30-19 in a game that the Panthers controlled from start to finish.

Leading scorers for the Panthers were Marissa Stubbert 13 points, Beth Thorne eight points and Zoe Abbott-Tate and Katrina Henneke with four each and Tessa Randall with a point from the foul line.

Sarinia Flames were the next team to fall victim to the Panthers attack by a score of 39-30 in an early Saturday morning game. Again the girls controlled the play most of the way but were down one point at the half.

The girls woke up in the second half and held Sarinia to only nine points in the entire second half while scor-



Pelham Panthers Major Bantam girls basketball team wins provincial championship to end season. Front row, Marissa Stubbert, Tessa Randall, Katrina Henneke, Beth Thorne, Karli McCabe, Jayden Lockey, back row coach Andrea Abbott-Tate, Bayley Kohl, Sierra Witte, Patricia Croft, Zoe Abbott-Tate, coach Todd Thorne.

ing 19 of their own.

Leading the way for the Panthers were Sierra Witte and Beth Thorne with 10 points each, Zoe Abbott-Tate seven points, Marissa Stubbert with six points and Patricia Croft, Bayley Kohl and Karli McCabe with a

basket each.

The Saturday afternoon game was the first real challenge for the Panthers from a team they had previously defeated just two weeks earlier in the Blessed Sacrament gold medal game, the York South Silver Knights.

The Knights came out of the gates hot and took an early lead but the Panthers fought back and managed to get a two point lead at the half. The Knights were not done yet as they opened a 10 point lead by the end of the third quarter.

With a possible tournament ending loss in sight, the Panthers girls turned it on in the fourth quarter to out score the Knights 16-3 in a great team effort, to win their pool and advance to the semi finals with a final score of 48-42.

Beth Thorne and Zoe Abbott-Tate both scored seven points each in the fourth quarter and both when 3-for-4, from the foul line to seal the Knights fate. Leading the way for the Panthers was Beth scoring 21 points, Marissa Stubbert added 10, Zoe had seven.

Patricia Croft and Sierra Witte added a couple of baskets each as well as controlled the boards for most of the game.

After winning their pool, the Panthers met the Huron Lakers in the semi final game on Sunday.

The Lakers kept the score close for most of the game but the Panthers were able to open up a 10-point lead by the end of the third quarter. The Lakers then mounted a strong come back in the fourth quarter coming to within one-point of the lead, but the Panther girls held it together and won with a final score of 39-36 to get into the gold medal game.

Sierra Witte lead the way for the Panthers scoring 13

points, seven of those during the fourth quarter, Marissa Stubbert added 10, Beth Thorne had six and Katrina Henneke scored a well-timed basket late in the fourth quarter to seal the Panthers win.

In the gold medal game, the Panthers played IEM Newmarket, a team they had not played this season. Not knowing what to expect, the Panther girls took an early nine point lead over the first quarter and thought they may have an easy time the rest of the way.

IEM had different plans, and kept coming back to challenge the Panthers for the lead. In the end, the Panthers held on and won by a score of 35-31 fending off a late surge by the IEM team. Sierra Witte scored big again with 16 points, Patricia Croft added eight, with three of those from beyond the arc. Beth Thorne added six and Marissa Stubbert added five. Abbott-Tate adding a basket each.

Congratulations girls on a great tournament and season, coach Todd and Andrea were very proud of all of your performances during the season and in the Provincial Championships. Thanks also to County Corner Market there sponsorship this season and all the parents and family members for their support and encouragement.

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Two to three years of experience in a restaurant management position and/or post secondary education in a hospitality program is an asset.

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